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CIA Takes Secret Data Reported Exposed in Employee's Home

From Post-Dispatch Wire Service
WASHINGTON, Aug. 3—The

Central Intelligence Agency said yesterday that it was investigating "the presence of exposed classified documents" in the Washington home of one of its

employees, identified at Hans Tofte.

The CIA spokesman said the agency was co-operating with Washington police authorities in an investigation of a report by Tofte that some jewelry belong-

ing to his wife was missing from his home.

A Minneapolis Tribune story by Clark Mollenhoff said that about \$19,000 worth of jewelry was reported missing from Tofte's home after some other CIA personnel had been there.

CIA Statement

Asked about this, a CIA spokesman said:

"Mr. Hans Tofte, an employee of this agency, had sometime ago listed his home . . . for sale. The realty company arranged for Mr. Kenneth R. Slocum, also an employee of this agency, to see this property.

"Mr. Slocum was not aware of Mr. Tofte's agency affiliation at the time he visited the property. In company with his wife and as a private individual on Saturday, July 23, he was shown through the residence by Mr. Tofte's mother-in-law through arrangements made by the realty company.

"During the course of the visit, Mr. Slocum noticed by chance classified agency material in manuscripts were missing from one of the rooms being shown and reported this promptly to agency security officials.

"Since the presence of exposed classified documents in a private home constitutes a violation of agency security regulations, Mr. and Mrs. Slocum and Mr. Charles D. Sprake, a security representative of this agency, returned to the residence on Sunday, July 24.

Took Documents

"They were again admitted by Mr. Tofte's mother in law and took custody of the classified material.

"Subsequently, Mr. Tofte advised a security official of this agency that some jewelry belonging to his wife was missing. He was encouraged to report this immediately to the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, which we understand, is now investigating the report of loss.

"The agency is co-operating fully with the authorities of the seventh precinct in this investigation."

The CIA spokesman said that Tofte was away at the time the classified material was found in his home, and was notified about this on his return late July 24.

Slocum declined to comment.

Tofte said, "The whole thing was a silly cloak and dagger raid. I'm proud of the CIA and that's what irks me most—rather than being handled in a professional manner it was handled very clumsily."

Tofte said he is "outraged as a private citizen" at the manner in which he was treated by the CIA. He said, "what started as a coincidence ended as a clumsy performance."

Tofte said he expects to get the missing jewelry back.

Mentioned Manuscripts

Police officers who investigated the case said that they went to the home on July 25 and Mrs. Tofte told them that approximately \$19,000 worth of jewels in a purse were missing from a first floor closet.

The policemen said that Mrs. Tofte mentioned also that some classified agency material in manuscripts were missing from the third floor, but that she did not know much about them except that they belonged to her husband.

Mollenhoff's story quoted Tofte as saying it was "customary for executives and senior personnel in key positions, as well as employees of certain ranks and responsibilities" to take papers home to work on them.

He charged that CIA personnel unknown to him had entered his home, "managed to distract the attention of my mother-in-law, and roamed the house for a period of time." He said, "no warrant or other official identification was displayed at the time."

Subsequently, Tofte was taken by CIA personnel investigators to the agency's headquarters at nearby Langley, Va., for extensive questioning, the story said.

The CIA spokesman said yesterday that Tofte was still on the agency's employment rolls, but that investigation of his handling of classified material at home was being continued.